GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6126
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Price Rise of Food Items
Patil Shri Sanjay(Kaka) Ramchandra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of food items like pulses and onion go up suddenly due to collusion of the Government machinery and traders;
(b) if so, whether the Government has framed a better scheme to check it;
(c) whether there is any scheme for distribution of diesel to the farmers at lower price for agricultural purposes under the Public Distribution System; and
(d) if so, whether any coordination has been established with the concerned Ministry

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Increase in prices of essential commodities including pulses and onion is because of various factors including shortfall in production owing to adverse weather conditions, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints like lack of storage facilities, artificial shortage created by hoarding and black marketing etc.
Government has taken various measures from time to time to stabilize prices of essential food items which inter-alia, include appropriately utilizing trade and fiscal policy instruments like import and export duty, Minimum Export Price, export restrictions etc. To regulate domestic availability and moderate prices; imposition of stock limits, and provision of higher Minimum Support Prices to incentivize farmers for increasing production. Besides, Government is also implementing Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) scheme for creating the buffer for effective market intervention to help moderate the volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities.
(c) : No Madam.
(d) : In view of (c) does not arise.
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